



Afternoon Alert - Tuesday, August 7, 2018

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#### HEADLINES

##### Noon news

Most networks reported on Typhoon Shanshan, which is expected to hit the Kanto region as early as Wednesday afternoon. TV Asahi led with updates on the scandal over Tokyo Medical University's discrimination against female applicants.

#### INTERNATIONAL

##### Trump administration reinstates economic sanctions against Iran

NHK reported that President Trump signed an executive order to reinstate economic sanctions against Iran. The network said the first phase of the sanctions that ban deals with Iran in such sectors as autos, steel, and jewelry were invoked at about 1 p.m. on Tuesday Japan time. The network also said the Trump administration is set to cut Iran's oil exports in the second phase and is calling on Japan and other nations to completely stop importing Iranian oil by November. Noting that the Revolutionary Guards held military exercises in the Persian Gulf last week and that Iran has warned that it will close the Strait of Hormuz, the network said if the tension between the U.S. and Iran rises and causes instability in the Middle East, it could affect the global economy, including oil prices.

Trade Minister Seko told reporters on Tuesday: "We will carefully analyze how this will impact Japanese corporations....Japan has been stressing its basic position of securing a

stable supply of energy and not allowing this to have a negative impact on Japanese corporate activities. We will continue to tenaciously discuss the matter with the U.S."

### **CNN reports that "a second U.S.-DPRK summit may be held this year"**

TV Asahi reported at noon on a CNN story saying that there is a strong possibility that a second U.S.-DPRK summit will be held later this year, according to an official with close knowledge of Pyongyang's position on the matter. The network said the official reportedly said the exchange of letters between President Trump and Chairman Kim this month is a positive sign and although the date and location of the summit have yet to be determined, the North Korean side believes that a second summit will take place sometime this year.

Meanwhile, the network said national security advisor Bolton criticized North Korea for not taking actions toward denuclearization, showing him telling reporters: "We are waiting for the North Koreans to begin the process of denuclearization which they committed to in Singapore and which they have not done." The network added that there is speculation in the U.S. that Chairman Kim may attend the UN General Assembly meeting slated for next month in New York or that President Trump may invite the North Korean leader to his estate in Florida.

- [Editorial: Efforts should be made to devise strategy to reduce risk of nuclear war](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: Education vital to maintain drive for elimination of nuclear weapons](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Hiroshima mayor questions nuclear nations' nationalism, wants Japan to do more](#) (The Mainichi)

### **ECONOMY**

- [Trade War – Part 2: Japan faces the question whether to cooperate with or contain China](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japanese firms spend record over 20 trillion yen on half-year M&As](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japan looking for ways to avoid U.S. auto import restriction](#) (Sankei)
- [Keidanren chief voices support for Abe's bid for a third win as LDP leader](#) (Nikkei)
- [4 Japan automakers enjoy higher quarterly profits](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Japan's farm product exports to hit 6th straight annual record](#) (Sankei)

### **AMBASSADOR**

## **Ambassador Hagerty meets with Hiroshima mayor, offers flowers at peace park**

Mainichi, Sankei, NHK, and several local broadcasters reported online that Ambassador Hagerty met with Hiroshima Mayor Matsui this morning. The mayor expressed his deep appreciation for the Ambassador's attendance at the peace memorial ceremony on Monday. In response, the Ambassador reportedly said: "I am grateful for the efforts of the citizens of Hiroshima to call on the world to never allow such a tragedy to be repeated." In reply to the mayor's request for President Trump to visit Hiroshima to learn about what happened in the atomic bombing, the Ambassador reportedly said he would convey the request to the President. After the meeting, the Ambassador, accompanied by his wife and his children, visited the Peace Memorial Park and laid a wreath there. The mayor told the press afterward: "Ambassador Hagerty's message that 'a world without nuclear weapons is ideal' is encouraging. I think we share the same ideal. I would like us to accelerate our moves to make it a reality."

- [U.S. envoy meets with Hiroshima mayor](#) (NHK)
- [US Ambassador Hagerty lays wreath at memorial for Hiroshima A-bomb victims](#) (The Mainichi)

### **POLITICS**

- [Prime minister's schedule on August 6, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- ["Suga groups" stepping up activities to garner support for Abe's third win as LDP leader](#) (Yomiuri)
- [70% of lawmakers back Abe for LDP presidential election / September poll looks to be 2-man fight with Ishiba](#) (The Japan News)
- [Face-to-face meetings needed for proactive diplomacy: FM Kono](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)

### **OPINION POLLS**

## **NHK poll: Cabinet support and nonsupport rates tied at 41%**

NHK reported on Monday on the results of its opinion survey conducted from Aug. 3 to 5, which showed that the public approval rate for the Abe cabinet dropped 3 points from last month to 41%, and the disapproval rate rose 2 points to 41%. Of those who support the cabinet, 50% said the cabinet seems better than the alternatives, 17% cited the cabinet's ability to implement policies, and 12% said the cabinet is made up of the parties they

support. Among those who disapproved, 42% said they don't trust the prime minister, 28% said nothing can be expected of its policy measures, and 10% said another cabinet would be better. Support for the LDP was 35.6%, followed by the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan at 5.6% and Komeito at 4.1%. The percentage of those who said they do not support any party was 43.2%.

- [Abe cabinet support and nonsupport rates both at 41%, NHK public opinion poll](#) (NHK)
- [58% approve of maintaining death penalty while 7% disagree, NHK public opinion poll](#) (NHK)
- [Cabinet and political party support rates, NHK public opinion poll](#) (NHK)
- [32% say Abe appropriate as next LDP president while 26% back Ishiba, Asahi poll](#) (Asahi)
- [Opinion poll & results from Asahi Shimbun](#) (Asahi)

#### SECURITY

- [U.S. military facility in Yokohama to be used for Japan-U.S. joint field training exercise](#) (Akahata)

#### OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

- [Ruling bloc in Ginowan municipal government to field Matsugawa in mayoral race](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)